Identity verification by mobile operators

*252. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced that identity of mobile users would be verified by mobile operators;

(b) whether the deadline of 31st March, 2007 was fixed in this matter;

(c) whether this deadline has been extended; and

(d) if not, the number of mobile operators who were detected as defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A special drive was conducted in May, 2007 to audit the status of subscriber verification being carried out by the mobile operators on sample basis. As per the reports of the said special drive, some discrepancies in subscriber verification have been noticed in the sample data provided by 26 mobile operators.

Illegal mining of coal

*253. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of people have lost their lives while extracting coal from abandoned coal mines in Jharkhand and other coal mines in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures which have been taken to prevent such illegal mining activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Since law and order is a State subject, coal companies have no data with regard to persons who died in the process of illegal coal mining.

(c) Following measures have been taken to prevent illegal mining:

(i) Rat holes created for the purpose of illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.

(ii) Trenches have been dug to isolate the illegal mining sites.

(iii) Concrete walls are being constructed at the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

(iv) Fencing of illegal mining sites and displaying of sign boards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place"